

Monday, May 1, 1995

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5857–S5930

Measures Introduced: Four bills were introduced, as follows: S. 738–741. Pages S5909–10

Product Liability Fairness Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 956, to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows: Pages S5870–71, S5874–S5909, S5930

Pending:

(1) Gorton Amendment No. 596, in the nature of a substitute. Page S5870

(2) McConnell Amendment No. 603 (to Amendment No. 596), to reform the health care liability system and improve health care quality through the establishment of quality assurance programs. Pages S5870, S5874–S5900, S5909

(3) Thomas Amendment No. 604 (to Amendment No. 603), to provide for the consideration of health care liability claims relating to certain obstetric services. Page S5870

(4) Wellstone Amendment No. 605 (to Amendment No. 603), to revise provisions regarding reports on medical malpractice data and access to certain information. Page S5870

(5) Snowe Amendment No. 608 (to Amendment No. 603), to limit the amount of punitive damages that may be awarded in a health care liability action. Page S5870

(6) Kyl Amendment No. 609 (to Amendment No. 603), to provide for full compensation for non-economic losses in civil actions. Page S5870

(7) Kyl Amendment No. 611 (to Amendment No. 603), to place a limitation of \$500,000 on non-economic damages that are awarded to compensate a claimant for pain, suffering, emotional distress, and other related injuries. Pages S5874–79

(8) DeWine Amendment No. 612 (to Amendment No. 603), to clarify that the provisions of this title do not apply to action involving sexual abuse. Pages S5879–80

(9) Hatch Amendment No. 613 (to Amendment No. 603), to permit the Attorney General to award grants for establishing or maintaining alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Pages S5888–90

(10) Simon/Wellstone Amendment No. 614 (to Amendment No. 603), to clarify the preemption of State laws. Page S5890

(11) Kennedy Amendment No. 607 (to Amendment No. 603), in the nature of a substitute. Pages S5897–99

(12) Kennedy Amendment No. 615 (to Amendment No. 603), to clarify the preemption of State laws. Pages S5899–S5900

(13) DeWine (for Dodd) Amendment No. 616 (to Amendment No. 603), to provide for uniform standards for the awarding of punitive damages. Page S5909

A unanimous-consent time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill on Tuesday, May 2, 1995, with votes on certain of the pending amendments to occur at 11 a.m. Page S5930

Measures Placed on Calendar: Page S5909

Communications: Page S5909

Statements on Introduced Bills: Pages S5910–12

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S5913–14

Amendments Submitted: Page S5914

Notices of Hearings: Pages S5914–15

Additional Statements: Pages S5915–30

Recess: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and recessed at 7:50 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 2, 1995. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's RECORD on page S5930.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Treasury, Postal Service, General Government held hearings on certain issues relating to the Oklahoma City bombing incident, focusing on Federal building

safety measures, receiving testimony from Ronald K. Noble, Under Secretary for Enforcement, Charles Thompson, Associate Director for Law Enforcement, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Eljay Bowron, Director, United States Secret Service, all of the Department of the Treasury; and Roger W. Johnson, Administrator, General Services Administration.

Subcommittee recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: One public bill, H.R. 1527; and two resolutions, H. Con. Res. 64 and H. Res. 135, were introduced.

Pages H4440–41

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 1139, to amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, amended (H. Rept. 104–105);

H.R. 1361, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for the Coast Guard, amended (H. Rept. 104–106);

H.R. 1141, to amend the Act popularly known as the “Sikes Act,” to enhance fish and wildlife conservation and natural resources management programs, amended (H. Rept. 104–107, Pt. 1);

H. Res. 136, providing for the consideration of H.R. 655, to authorize the hydrogen research, development, and demonstration programs of the Department of Energy (H. Rept. 104–108);

H.R. 541, to reauthorize the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975, amended (H. Rept. 104–109, Pt. 1); and

H.R. 1323, to reduce risk to public safety and the environment associated with pipeline transportation of natural gas and hazardous liquids, amended (H. Rept. 104–110, Pt. 1).

Page H4440

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a message from the Speaker wherein he designates Representative Waldholtz as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H4435

Recess: House recessed at 12:37 p.m. and reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Page H4436

Late Report: Committee on Rules received permission to have until midnight tonight to file a report on H.R. 655, Hydrogen Future Act of 1995.

Page H4437

Recess: House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 2:19 p.m.

Page H4437

Quorum Calls—Votes: No quorum calls or votes developed during the proceedings of the House today.

Adjournment: Met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

HYDROGEN FUTURE ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, an open rule providing for 1 hour of debate on H.R. 655, Hydrogen Future Act of 1995. The rule makes in order the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and each section of the amendment shall be considered as read. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Walker and Representative Brown of California.

Joint Meetings

CHECHNYA

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission): Commission resumed hearings on the current crisis in Chechnya, receiving testimony from Ariel Cohen, Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.; and Sergei Adamovich Kovalev and Yevgeniya Albats, both of Russia.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1995

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal

year 1996 for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, 9 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the ballistic missile program, 10 a.m., SD-192.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for energy and water development programs, 2:30 p.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1996 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on space programs, and to review the Department of Defense's Space Management Initiative, 9:30 a.m., SR-222.

Full Committee, to hold hearings on the nominations of Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, USA, to be Chief of Staff of the Army, and for reappointment to the grade of general, and Lt. Gen. Charles C. Krulak, USMC, to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, and for appointment to the grade of general, 3 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Financial Institutions and Regulatory Relief, to hold hearings on S. 650, to increase the amount of credit available to fuel local, regional, and national economic growth by reducing the regulatory burden imposed upon financial institutions, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Foreign Relations, business meeting, to consider the nomination of Lawrence Harrington, of Tennessee, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and pending treaties, time to be announced, S-116.

Committee on Governmental Affairs, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to review the Navy class oiler contract, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, to hold hearings to examine the costs of the legal system, 9 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Labor and Human Resources, to hold hearings on the nomination of Henry W. Foster Jr., of Tennessee, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Indian Affairs, to hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Tribal Self-Governance Demonstration Project authorities by the Indian Health Service, 9:30 a.m., SR-485.

NOTICE

For a listing of Senate Committee Meetings Scheduled ahead, see pages E895-897 in today's RECORD.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, on Congressional and Public Witnesses, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on National Security, on Munitions Issues, 1 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, on Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, hearing on the Administration's plan for authorization of the fiscal year 1996 funding for the International Financial Institutions, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on the Impact of Federal Regulation on State and Local Governments, 1 p.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, hearing on Adult Education, 9:30 a.m., 2261 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations, hearing on Affirmative Action, 9:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology, hearing on the National Performance Review, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs and the Subcommittee on Rules and Organization of the House of the Committee on Rules, joint hearing on "Corrections Day Policy and Procedures", 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs, to continue hearings on H.R. 994, Regulatory Sunset and Review Act of 1995, Part 2, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, hearing on U.S. Sanctions on Iran: Next Steps, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, hearing on Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House.
The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through April 30, 1995

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session	68	58	..
Time in session	564 hrs., 59'	528 hrs., 47'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	5,856	4,433	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	879	..
Public bills enacted into law	6	3	9
Private bills enacted into law	0	..	..
Bills in conference	4	1	..
Measures passed, total	100	128	228
Senate bills	15	7	..
House bills	9	48	..
Senate joint resolutions	1	..	..
House joint resolutions	0	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	0	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	6	9	..
Simple resolutions	69	62	..
Measures reported, total	*93	*100	193
Senate bills	61	..	..
House bills	6	59	..
Senate joint resolutions	2	..	..
House joint resolutions	2	3	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	2	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	0	..	..
Simple resolutions	20	38	..
Special reports	8	..	..
Conference reports	0	4	..
Measures pending on calendar	78	11	..
Measures introduced, total	892	1,808	2,700
Bills	737	1,526	..
Joint resolutions	32	85	..
Concurrent resolutions	11	63	..
Simple resolutions	112	134	..
Quorum calls	2	9	..
Yea-and-nay votes	136	76	..
Recorded votes .....	..	217	..
Bills vetoed .....	..	..	..
Veto overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 4 through April 30, 1995

Civilian nominations, totaling 190, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	80
Unconfirmed	109
Withdrawn	1
Civilian nominations (FS, PHS, CG, NOAA), totaling 702, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	696
Unconfirmed	6
Air Force nominations, totaling 9,954, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	9,814
Unconfirmed	140
Army nominations, totaling 3,408, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	3,298
Unconfirmed	110
Navy nominations, totaling 3,908, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	969
Unconfirmed	2,939
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,259, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	375
Unconfirmed	884
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominations received this session	19,421
Total confirmed	15,232
Total unconfirmed	4,188
Total withdrawn	1

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 78 reports has been filed in the Senate; a total of 104 reports has been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m. Tuesday, May 2

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 956, to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 2

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday and Wednesday: Consideration of the following Suspension:

H. Con. Res. 53, expressing the Sense of the Congress Regarding a Private Visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United States.

Consideration of H.R. 655, Hydrogen Future Act of 1995 (open rule, one hour of general debate).

Motion to go to conference on H.R. 1158, Making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Additional Disaster Assistance and Making Rescissions for Fiscal Year 1995.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Ackerman, Gary L., N.Y., E886
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